ambient conditions, the compounds are preliminarily transformed into an LC state by heating to the melting temperature. All these techniques can be used to obtain elements with different thicknesses. For this purpose, a stepped, wedge-shaped, or other relief with depth variations within 1--15 μm is formed on the surface of the application device. In order to obtain a mosaic structure with differential orientation of optical axes in the anisotropic layer, the application device (die or squeegee) must perform reciprocating motions in the direction perpendicular to the direction of motion of the base to which the anisotropic film is applied. In the case of roller technology, this is achieved by producing a relief of elongated grooves, making certain angle with the cylinder generating line, on the surface of rollers. These grooves render the roller surface anisotropic and provide the orientation of molecules in a desired direction.

On page 11, replace the text between lines 22 and 30 with the following:

1. JP No. 4-307300(A), October 29, 1992
2. Appl. PCT WO 94/28073; Published December 8, 1994
3. US Pat. No. 2,400,877, May 28, 1946.
4. JP No. 1-183602(A), July 21, 1989
5. US Pat. No. 5,247,377, September 21, 1993
6. SU No. 1015326, January 25, 1982

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown:

~~11~~. A decorative material, comprising:

two polarizers, wherein each polarizer has a controlled direction of polarization axis; and

at least one phase-shifting plate placed between the polarizers, wherein the phase-shifting plate represents a continuous layer of an optically anisotropic material containing regions differing by optical properties.

~~19~~. The decorative material of claim ~~16~~ or ~~17~~, wherein the molecularly oriented film represents a layer of an organic substance formed from thermotropic liquid crystals having a temperature of transition from solid to liquid crystal state above the ambient temperature.